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Attorney Docket # 3457-66PUS

Patent

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Thorsten DIRKS et al.

Serial No.: 09/763,086

Filed: February 16, 2001

For: Drilling Device and Method for Drilling a Well

Examiner:

Group Art:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO 1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application.

European reference 0 379 817 discloses a tie rod drill. This reference is discussed in greater in the specification of the present application and the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to that discussion.

German reference 24 35 535 discloses a drilling apparatus. This reference corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,049,065, a copy of which is also enclosed.

German reference 23 13 817 discloses a gripper for a drill rod handling apparatus. This reference corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 3,773,188, a copy of which is also enclosed.

The present invention defines a specific drilling device and method for drilling a well which are not believed to be disclosed by the enclosed references.

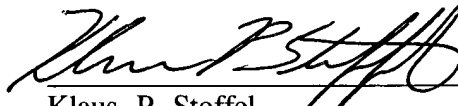
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

If any fees or charges are deemed required at this time in connection with the application, the same may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

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